

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (currently amended) A boot, comprising:

an outer layer of stretchable leather;

an outsole;

an oversized toe box supported on the outsole and covered by the outer layer of stretchable leather, the toe box being sized to enclose a substantial thickness of compressible cold insulating material and the corresponding portion of a user's foot without compression of the cold insulating material when the boot is worn;

a layer of compressible cold insulating material in its uncompressed state, the cold insulating material having a surface secured to the underside of the toe box; and

a lining having a first side facing the opposing surface of the cold insulating material and a second side generally facing the upper surface of a portion of a user's foot, the lining extending below the opposing surface of the cold insulating material a sufficient distance that the cold insulating material is not compressed between the toe box and the lining when the boot is worn.

11. (previously presented) The boot as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

a thinner layer of cold insulating material extending below the second side of the lining.

12. (previously presented) The boot as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

a water-impermeable, water-vapor permeable membrane extending below the thinner layer of cold insulating material.

13. (new) A boot, comprising:

an outer layer of stretchable leather;

an outsole;

an oversized toe box supported on the outsole and covered by the outer layer of stretchable leather, the toe box being sized to enclose a substantial thickness of compressible cold insulating material and the corresponding portion of a user's foot without compression of the cold insulating material when the boot is worn;

a layer of compressible cold insulating material in its uncompressed state, the cold insulating material having a surface secured to the underside of the toe box;

a lining having a first side facing the opposing surface of the cold insulating material and a second side generally facing the upper surface of a portion of a user's foot, the lining extending below the opposing surface of the cold insulating material a sufficient distance that the cold insulating material is not compressed between the toe box and the lining when the boot is worn;

a thinner layer of cold insulating material extending below the second side of the lining; and

a waterproof membrane extending below the thinner layer of cold insulating material.

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